KAKAO 79

Chapter 35: Test of Courage (2)

BY AOI UMI

AMPLIFIED (TL, TS)
AIJIISHIBASHI
DUNE (PR, CL)

SO STRAIGHT THIS BACK ROAD AND YOU'LL FIND A HUGE BOULDER.

IF YOU MANAGE TO FIND ONE OF THE MARBLES SCATTERED AROUND THERE, YOU SUCCEED!

IT'S A STRAIGHT PATH AND THERE'RE NO SCARERS, SO PLEASE TAKE IT EASY!

A kid appears to the path, on his own!

His pitch dark...

There is your kid on the other side.

AHAHA I DON'T HAVE A SIXTH SENSE SO I CAN'T ASSURE YOU, BUT IT'S PROBABLY FINE.

HEY, TACHIBANA, THERE REALLY ARE NO GHOSTS HERE, RIGHT? IT'S TOTALLY FINE, RIGHT?!

RIGHTS WITH THAT ANGLE, CLOUD DRAWING

TA-TA-TACHIBANA, LET'S GO AS A TRIO...

HEY TACHIBANA-KUN~ WON'T YOU GO WITH JUST THIS GUY? DOESN'T SEEM USEFUL.

SORRY, I'M FROM ANOTHER CLASS SO I'LL HAVE TO PASS!

WHAT'S WRONG? IS THERE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?

HUH?! AH, NO... I WAS JUST IN AWE.

OF WHAT?

YOU'RE FROM CLASS H, RIGHT?

I'M IMPRESSED AT HOW YOU'VE GOT LOTS OF FRIENDS EVEN FROM OTHER CLASSES.

Shall we leave?

Sure.

OH, THEY'RE FROM THE TENNIS CLUB, AND THE OTHERS ARE MY MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSMATES.

EVERYONE'S KIND SO THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT ME. THEY'RE ALL NICE PEOPLE.

NO...

I'M SURE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A KIND PERSON

THAT EVERYONE'S ALSO KIND TO YOU.

SO KIND THAT EVEN SOMEONE LIKE ME WHOM YOU JUST MET THINKS SO.

I THINK I SHOULD BE MORE IN AWE OF YOU AYANO-SAN FOR BEING CAPABLE OF COMPLIMENTING OTHERS HONESTLY.

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL...

...NO.

YOU'RE BECOMING MORE GIRLY. I THINK YOU'RE BECOMING MORE BEAUTIFUL.

UWAA?! THIS PERSON'S VERY DIRECT WITH HIS WORDS.

HEY COME PLAY WITH THE TENNIS CLUB SOME TIME!

LET'S TRAIN TOGETHER.

I'M NOT A MEMBER, THOUGH. IS THAT OKAY?

ANYONE WHO LOVES TENNIS IS WELCOME.

I'M SURE EVERYONE WILL BE DELIGHTED.

NEXT, NO. 12

NO. 12 HUH... IT'S ALMOST OUR TURN...

IS IT GOING BE ALRIGHT...

Mm. I'LL return!

ARE YOU NOT GOOD WITH THIS STUFF?

NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...

...I THINK YOU SHOULDN'T GET TOO CLOSE WITH HER.

THAT'S RIGHT TO BE HONEST IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME.

THAT YUU. WHY DID HE SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT..?

I MEAN, FOR THOSE TWO... WHO WENT FIRST

pant pant pant

RAN TO GET HERE
(NO ONE SAID A WORD IF WE'L TWO TOWN)

IT'S FRIGGIN' HUGE!!

LIKE HELL WE CAN FIND A MARBLE HERE!!

THESE TWO ARE ONLY THINKING OF GETTING BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

79%

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WHY DID YOU MAKE CLASS REP FAINT THERE?! ARE YOU STUPID?!

HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW? YOU WOULDN'T NORMALLY GET SCARED OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT

THAT'S MY LINE.

I live and one.

ONCE I FIND MINE, I'M GONNA DASH OUT OF HERE.

GO AHEAD. YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME

I WAS SUCKED UP FOR THIS WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE THEN I GOING HERE AND I END UP IN THIS SITUATION. THIS IS ALL DAMN POINTLESS

I CAN'T EVEN FEEL ANY THING AND THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A TEST OF COURAGE. CLASS REP'S ABOUT THE ONLY ONE WHO WILL ENJOY THIS

DID YOU WANT HER TO SCREAM AND MAKE YOU? GROSS

SHUT YOUR MOUTH

YOU'RE MORE AGGRESSIVE THAN I THOUGHT

WHY DOESN'T AYANO-SAN NOTICE YOUR AD-VANCES?

IS SHE DUMB?

Hush, Yamai-kun, Yamai-kun

HUSH!

DON'T CALL HER DUMB. SHE IS, THOUGH.

THIS ISN'T ABOUT HER. NOTHING'S GR NOT

I'M JUST ACTING LIKE USUAL.

BESIDES, I'VE NEVER SAID I LIKE HER.

WHY ARE YOU ARBITRARILY DECIDING THAT'S THE CA...

.....

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? IT'S BLINDING

I JUST GOT CURIOUS OF THE EXPRESSION YOU'RE MAKING WHILE SAYING THAT

.....

YOUR WORDS AND BEHAVIOR DO NOT MATCH.

YOU SAY SHE'S NOT YOUR PROPERTY, BUT YOUR DESIRE TO MONOPOLIZE HER IS GLARINGLY EVIDENT

YOU CLAIM YOU DON'T LIKE HER, YET YOU'RE WARY OF TACHIBANA AND EVEN NOW YOU'RE IN A HURRY TO GET BACK.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT AYANO-SAN?

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THOSE TWO?

CLASS REP? IS IT ALRIGHT FOR YOU TO GET UP?

I THINK YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ISHINOSE-KUN AND TENDOU-SAN. THEY'LL BE FINE.

NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY, I BELIEVE THEY GET ALONG WELL.

HUH, NO... THAT WORRIES ME EVEN MORE...

REALLY? THAT'S RE-ASSURING.

HUH ?!

AYANO-SAN.

IT SEEMS TACHIBANA-KUN HAS THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT YOU TWO.

WRONG IDEA ?

YUU AND I AREN'T DATING.

REALLY ?!

REALLY.

Ah yes... I was also wrong about him.

SORRY, I SORT OF ASSUMED THAT'S THE CASE.

NO NO. YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR, TACHIBANA-KUN.

YUU, YOU SEE, ON TOP OF BEING SHY, GET'S LONELY EASILY.

THAT'S WHY HE STICKS TOO CLOSE TO ME, AND THAT'S THE REASON FOR ALL OF THIS.

NOW I KNOW. SO THAT'S HOW SHE SEES THIS...

BUT YOU GET ALONG REALLY WELL

THAT PEOPLE MISTAKE YOU FOR LOVERS ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING?

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

YOU MINX.

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR ATTEMPTING TO SNATCH HIM AWAY.

THANKS TO THAT, WE'VE CAUSED LOTS OF TROUBLE FOR THOSE AROUND US.

BECAUSE OF ME, YUU ALSO WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE.

I'M... SO SICK OF EVERYTHING.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, PEOPLE GETTING THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT US IS NOT A GOOD THING.

I'M ALWAYS AN EXTRA BAGGAGE

SO ISN'T IT BETTER IF WE KEEP SOME DISTANCE?

WAIT, WAIT, AYANO-SAN.

WHY ARE YOU SAYING IT LIKE IT'S A BAD THING FOR YOU TWO TO BE TOGETHER?

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT. YOU'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS AFTER ALL.

WITH THE WAY YOU PHRASED IT NOW, ALL OF YOUR ME MORIES TOGETHER WILL BECOME MERELY BAGGAGE YOU KNOW?

BUT THEY'RE NOT, RIGHT?

AH...

AND IF SOMEONE TELLS ME TO KEEP A DISTANCE, I MIGHT CR...

AYANO-SAN?!

JUST A MOMENT. I'M GOING TO LET GO. I'M HOLDING IT IN.

WHY ?!

PLEASE DON'T CRY!!

CLASS REP?! A-ANYWAY

Y-THAT'S RIGHT. TACHIBANA-KUN, IS IT ALL FINE HERE?

S-SORRY, I MISCUED AND SAID TOO MUCH ...

SORRY! I WON'T CRY!

I'VE ACTUALLY TOLD YUU TO KEEP A DISTANCE ALREADY!

THAT'S JUST LIKE TELLING HIM I DON'T NEED HIM, RIGHT...!?

YUU'S AN IDIOT. HE DIDN'T EVEN GET MAD...! HE'S TOO KIND...!

Hic, hic, hic

AYANO-SAN, I THINK THAT'S NOT BECAUSE HE'S KIND

HUH?

FOR ICHINOSE-KUN AND ITINOU-SAN, YOU TWO ARE

TOO PRECIOUS AN EXISTENCE THAT THEY WANT TO BE WITH YOU NO MATTER WHAT. THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE.

SO DON'T BLAME YOURSELF.

Pat, pat

BY ARDENTLY STAYING BY HIS SIDE THAT YOU ARE BECOMING A BAGGAGE, THAT ENOUGH WILL MAKE HIM HA...

Zzz

CLASS REP!! YOU SAY GOOD STUFF EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!?

I LIKE YOOUUU!!!

BUO!!

PLEASE STOP IT'LL BE KILLED!

WHY WON'T EVEN TUCHII WE'RE ALWAYS TOGETHER. WE SHOULD BE SICK OF IT

TOO PRECIOUS AN EXIST-ENCE HUH

TSUBASA-- AYANO-SAN, CALM DOWN.

TSUBASA IS FINE! YOU, TOO, CLASS REP! CALL ME TSUBASAA UAAAAAA

I'LL BE KILLED T-T... OR KILLED BY ICHINOSE-KUN

NO, 16!

I WANT TO SEE YOU RIGHT NOW

I HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO ANSWER THAT.

YOU'RE RIGHT...

KEEP RUNNING AWAY JUST LIKE THAT.

WON'T BE PROVOKED BY SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU DID ANYTHING EVEN WHEN YOU WERE PROVOKED

Mitsuki Tachibana Ayano Kunou Hiroto Ichinose Itinou

WOW. YOU REALLY HAVE A NASTY PERSONALITY THERE AREN'T A LOT WHO ARE AS TERRIBLE AS YOU

THANKS.

"THAT WAS NOT A COMPLIMENT.

IF YOU LIKE TACHIBANA SO MUCH YOU'RE STIRRING ME UP AND KEEPING TSUBASA IN CHECK YOU MIGHT AS WELL CONFESS ALREADY

AHAHAHA OKONOTONE ARE YOU ONE TO TALK?

I TRIED TO CONFESS.

ON THE DAY I FELL FROM THAT TREE AND MET AYANO-SAN.

THE TIMING!!

IT'S NOT THAT

I THINK IT'S AYANO-SAN'S FAULT I COULDN'T CONFESS TO HIM.

IT'S JUST THAT I GOT MORE TIME BEFORE I'M REJECTED, SO I'M SAVING IT FOR ANOTHER DAY.

UNLIKE YOU, I WASN'T ALWAYS WITH HIM.

NEITHER IS TIME A LUXURY FOR ME.

THAT'S WHY I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU WHO DOES NOT TRY TO CONVEY ANYTHING

YOU ONLY LOOK LIKE YOU'RE DAWDLING TO ME

FOR TSUBASA A 'FRIEND' IS AN EXISTENCE SHE CAN'T HELP BUT WANT AND PROTECT.

THAT'S WHY AS LONG AS I'M A 'FRIEND', TSUBASA DEFINITELY WON'T STAY AWAY FROM ME.

IT'S TRUE THAT I MAY BE SPOILED BY THAT FACT.

OR ARE YOU THAT TYPE? THE TYPE WHO'S AFRAID THINGS WON'T RETURN TO NORMAL IF YOU'RE REJECTED

HEY

THERE'S

NO WAY I'LL BE REJECTED

THIS GUY... ISN'T IMPATIENT ENOUGH

THEN BE QUICK WITH IT AND CONFESS

I JUST TOLD YOU THAT'S NOT IT.

That isn't it. Don't hate me, everyone.

BECAUSE SHE STILL NEEDS ME AS A "FRIEND"

OKAY! FINALLY, NO. 1?!

LET'S GO,

CLASS REP.

Are you ready, Ota?!

O-O-O-OF COURSE. AS A PART OF THE CLASS, I SHALL SEE TO IT THAT I ACCOMPLISH MY R-R-RO-ROLE.

NEED AN ARM?

P-P-P-PLEASE.

Good luck.

Kirikura is a secret target. Eliminate him.

HEY! I TOLD YOU THAT'S NOT THE WAY!

Tsubasa's character is collapsing.

WE'RE GOING TO MEET TACHIBANA AND AYANO-SAN

WHAT?!

GO

TSUBASA & CLASS REP

RUN & TENGOU

Start

Goal

F.F.

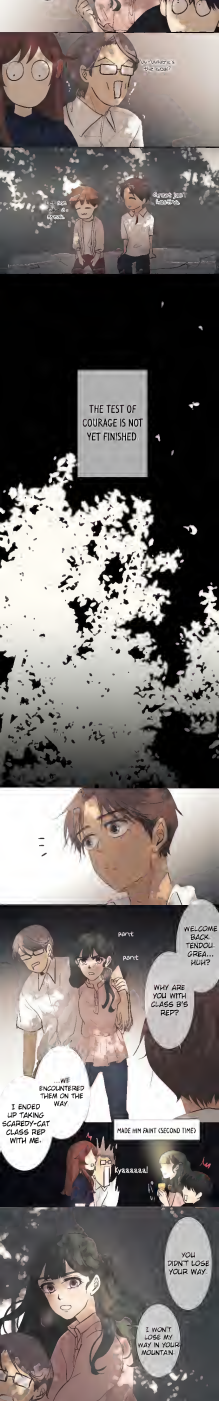
TACHIBANA & OTHERS

HEY, WAIT!!

CUT IT OUT...!

!!

Ha...ha! That's a relief...!
タッ
?!
ぐいっ
LIAR?!
NICE CATCH...
MOVE THIS INSTANT.
Doesn't it...Why I'm?


NOT TACHI-BANA?
Ah, Tanaka's the best!
Always just kidding around.
It was a shock.
THE TEST OF COURAGE IS NOT YET FINISHED
WELCOME BACK, TENDOU GREA... HUH?
WHY ARE YOU WITH CLASS 8'S REP?
WE ENCOUNTERED THEM ON THE WAY
I ENDED UP TAKING SCAREDY-CAT CLASS REP WITH ME.
MADE HIM FAINT (SECOND TIME)
Kyaaaaaa!
YOU DIDN'T LOSE YOUR WAY.
I WON'T LOSE MY WAY IN YOUR MOUNTAIN.

I SEE.

SO NAO-SAN WILL

TACHIBANA... WHY DIDN'T YOU GO WITH AYANO-SAN?

CLASS REP WANTED TO GO, SO...

I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO TOGETHER

AYANO-SAN'S SUCCESS IS FOR MY SAKE AS WELL

:)

:D

?

!

WHAT'S WRONG?

I'M JUST RELIEVED.

HUH, WERE YOU SCARED?!

YEAH...

BY THE WAY, WHERE'S ICHINOSE-KUN?

WE'S WITH AYANO-SAN.

WHY

DID YOU GO WITH CLASS REP?

BECAUSE HE WAS ORIGINALLY MY PARTNER.

OH.

BE IT TACHI-BANA OR CLASS REP

WAS SHE FINE WITH ANYONE?

LET'S GO.

IT'S PRETTY HARD TO FIND MARBLES...

YUU

WHY

WERE YOU HERE

WITH TENDOU-SAN?

To Be Continued